

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-6, 8-11, and 13-23 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 11 are amended. No new matter is added. A Request for Continued Examination is attached. Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicant initially responded to the pending Final Rejection in a Request for Reconsideration After Final Rejection filed on May 4, 2009. In response, the Patent Office mailed an Advisory Action on May 12, 2009, which was incomplete in many respects. In an effort to obtain clarification regarding what was intended by the Advisory Action, specifically because the Advisory Action generally ignored Applicant's arguments and responded to an argument that Applicant did not make, Applicant's representative scheduled and conducted a personal interview with the Examiners as discussed below.

The courtesies extended to Applicant's representative by Examiners Olaniran and Chin at the personal interview held June 2, 2008, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below, which constitute Applicant's record of the interview.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 3-6, 8-11 and 13-23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0007591 to Pompei in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,953,825 to Kino et al. (hereinafter "Kino") in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,556,687 to Manabe. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant made detailed arguments regarding the analysis of the Office Action and specifically the in applicability of the Kino reference, and the noncombinability of the references cited in Applicant's May 4 response. Without conceding the propriety of the rejections in the Office Action, and without abandonment any of the arguments made in the

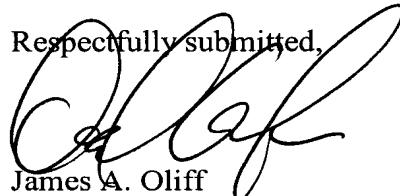
May 4 response, as were reiterated in the June 2 personal interview, and simply to advance prosecution, Applicant amends the claims to be focused on a plurality of objects as suggested by Examiner Olaniran during the personal interview. Applicant does not believe that these amendments are necessary to distinguish the pending claims over the applied references, but rather adds these clarifying amendments to advance prosecution of this application toward allowance based on the Examiner's inputs during the personal interview.

For at least the above reasons, no combination of the applied references would have suggested the combinations of all of the features recited in claims 1 and 11. Further, claims 3-6, 8-10 and 13-23, which variously depend from independent claims 1 and 11, also would not have been suggested by the applied references for the reasons discussed above, as well as for the additional features recited.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 3-6, 8-11, and 13-23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 3-6, 8-11, 13-23 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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JAO:DAT/cfr

Attachment:
Request for Continued Examination

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